(b) and (c) Two Uranium deposits have been located at Lambapur-Yellapur in Nalagonda District and Tummalapalle in - Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh. Reserves of about 1700 tonnes of Uranium Oxide have been established and existence of an additional 2300 tonnes is inferred in Lambapur-Yellapur, where the average grade is 0.07% U_3O_8. about 15000 tonnes of grade 0.05% U_3O_8 reserves have been established in Tummalapalle region. Estimated value of these deposits would be known after the detailed evaluation.

(d) Government have not yet taken a decision on the utilisation of these deposits.

Upliftment of Weaker Sections

802. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide some benefits to the socially backward and economically weaker sections to help support themselves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The target group for various programmes of Rural Development, Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation consists of socially backward and economically weaker sections, and other poor people, Besides, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) also aims at benefiting destitute households. It has three components viz, NDAPS (National Old Age Pension Scheme), NFBS (National Family Benefit Scheme) and NMBS (National Maternity Benefit Scheme).

Science Congress

803. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Science Congress held recently in the country;

(b) the suggestions offered by the participants to the Union Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) 84th Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress was held at the University of Delhi from 3rd to 8th January, 1997 and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. The focal theme of this Session was:

"Frontiers in Science and Engineering and their Relevance to National Development".

According to the information made available by the Indian Science Congress Association, about four thousand scientists took part in the Session. A number of plenaries on current interests in Science and Technology were held and were addressed by eminent scientists. In addition, a large number of special lectures and symposia were organised to discuss various developments in the frontier areas in Science and Technology. Special Sessions for school children, women in science and young scientists were also held.

(b) The suggestions made at the Congress include the need to set up an Apex Advisory Committee on Science and Technology; increase in budgetary support to science education; encouragement to industry to invest in R & D; conversion of high ash coal into a source of cleaner energy etc.

(c) Government are appreciative of the suggestions made.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Occupants

804. DR. BALIRAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether before 1984, Post and Telegraph Department's colony had 235 quarters at G.Point Gol Dakkhana, New Delhi;

(b) whether the quarters for the staff of the President House were constructed on half of the land of above colony after 1984 and now its staff are residing in these quarters;

(c) whether New Delhi Municipal Council constructed a school building on a plot of this land and the remaining land from quarter No.16 to 157 was taken over by the Ministry;

(d) whether due to negligence of the ministry unauthorised occupants have been residing in the rest of these quarters since 1985; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to vacate these quarters and punish the negligent officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Power Generation Policy

805. SHRI JAGAT VEER SINGH DRONA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has alleged that the absence of transparency in the Power generation policy for private sector and poor financial condition of the State Electricity Boards are the main hindrances for the private investment in this infrastructure sector: and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?